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Urban District of Woodhall Spa



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1950

WOODFALL SPA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
1950

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

W.D. SWINNEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

N.R. BOLTON, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.



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To the Chairman and Members,
Woodhall Spa Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council,

I herewith present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1950. Much of the Report is entirely self-explanatory but I would particularly draw attention to the Section on Vital Statistics in which the 1950 figures have been contrasted with the average annual figures for the five year period 1945 - 1949 - where it has been possible to extract that data from available information - and for further comparison, certain of the Salient Statistics for England and Wales, during 1950, included at the end of the Section.

As this is the last Annual Report which I shall submit I may, perhaps be allowed to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Council and all members of its staff for four years of very happy association.

Yours faithfully,

W.D. SWINNEY
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Office,
Conging Street,
Horncastle.



STATISTICS

AREA OF URBAN DISTRICT: 1874 acres.
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF RESIDENT POPULATION: 1,916
DENSITY OF POPULATION: 1.02 persons per acre.
NUMBER OF INHABITED DWELLINGS: 542
SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE: £46. 11s. 8d.
RATEABLE VALUE OF URBAN DISTRICT: £11,798

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

		<u>1950</u>	<u>Annual Mean 1945 - 49.</u>
Legitimate	Males	12	13.2
	Females	17	9.8
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals		29	23.0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Illegitimate	Males	0	0.8
	Females	1	0.8
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals		1	1.6
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total live births		30	24.6
Crude live birth rate per thousand estimated population		15.66	15.15
Standardised live birth rate per thousand estimated population		18.00	-

Still Births

Legitimate	Males	0	0.0
	Females	1	0.2
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals		1	0.2
		<hr/>	<hr/>



Illegitimate	Males	0	0.0
	Females	0	0.0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals	0	0.0
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Total still births	1	0.2
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Still birth rate per thousand total (live and still) births	32.26	6.06
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Total Births

Crude total birth rate (live and still) per thousand population	16.18	16.36
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Standardised total birth rate (live and still) per thousand population	19.74	-
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Deaths

Males	14	11.0
Females	19	16.2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	33	27.2
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Crude death rate per thousand estimated population	17.22	16.60
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Standardised death rate per thousand estimated population	12.39	-
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Mean age at death	77.67 yrs	-
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Ages at Death, 1950

	Under									75 &	
Years.	1	1/5	5/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/55	55/65	65/75	Over	Total
Deaths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	21	33



Maternal Mortality

Number of women dying as a result of childbirth.

(Heading No.30 in the Registrar General's Short List)

	<u>1950</u>	<u>Annual Mean 1945 - 49</u>
No.30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0.0
Maternal mortality rate per thousand total births (live and still)	0.0	0.0
<u>Death rates of infants under one year of age</u>		
Total No. of deaths of infants under 1 year of age	0	1.0
All infants per thousand live births	0.00	41.40
Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate births	0.00	45.99
Illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate births	0.00	19.04

Other Statistics

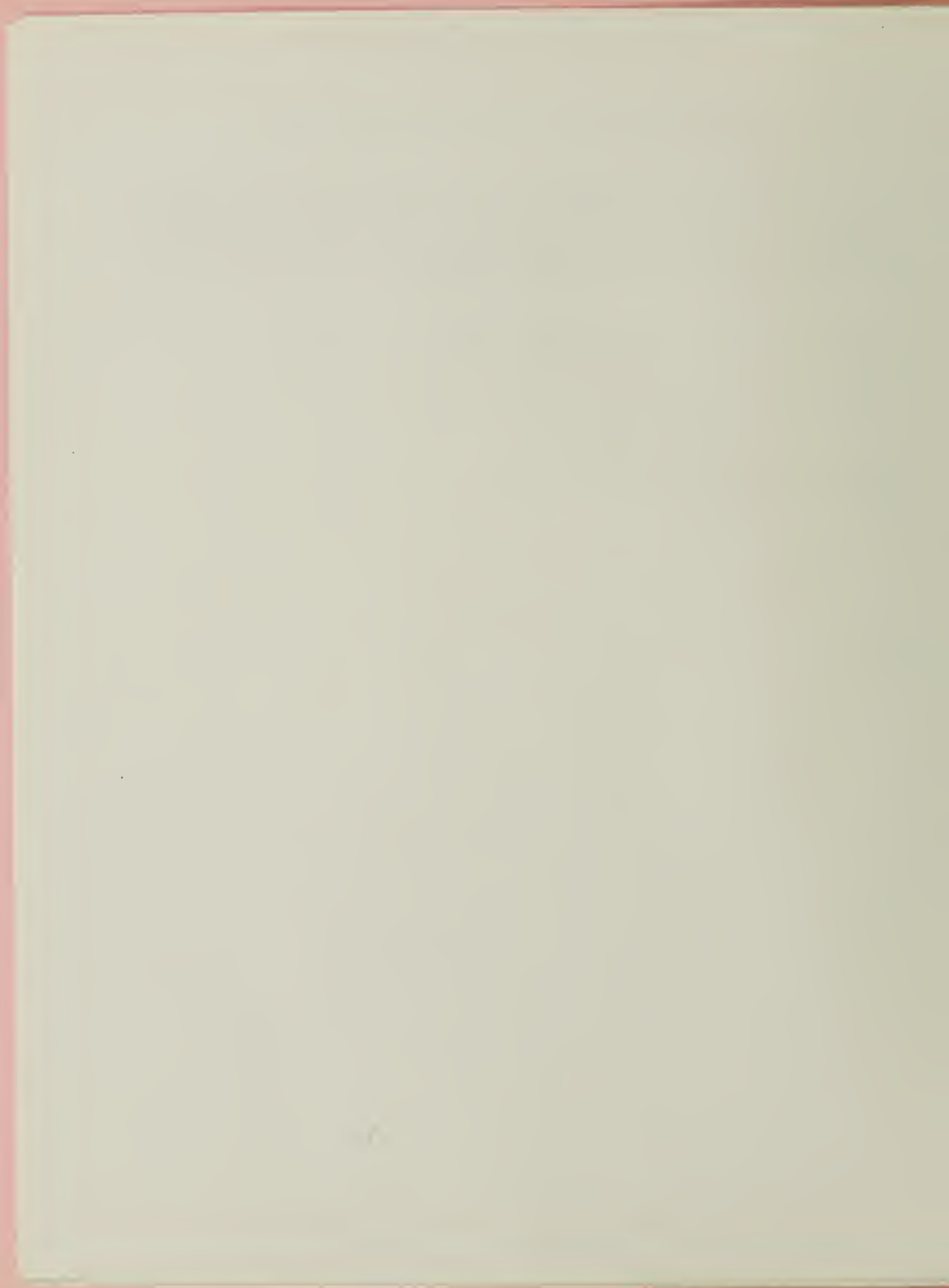
Deaths from Malignant Neoplasm (all ages)	4	4.0
Deaths from measles (all ages)	0	0.0
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	0	0.0
Deaths from Heart Disease (all Forms) (all ages)	17	9.4
Deaths from Enteritis & Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0	0.0



Vital Statistics, England & Wales, 1950

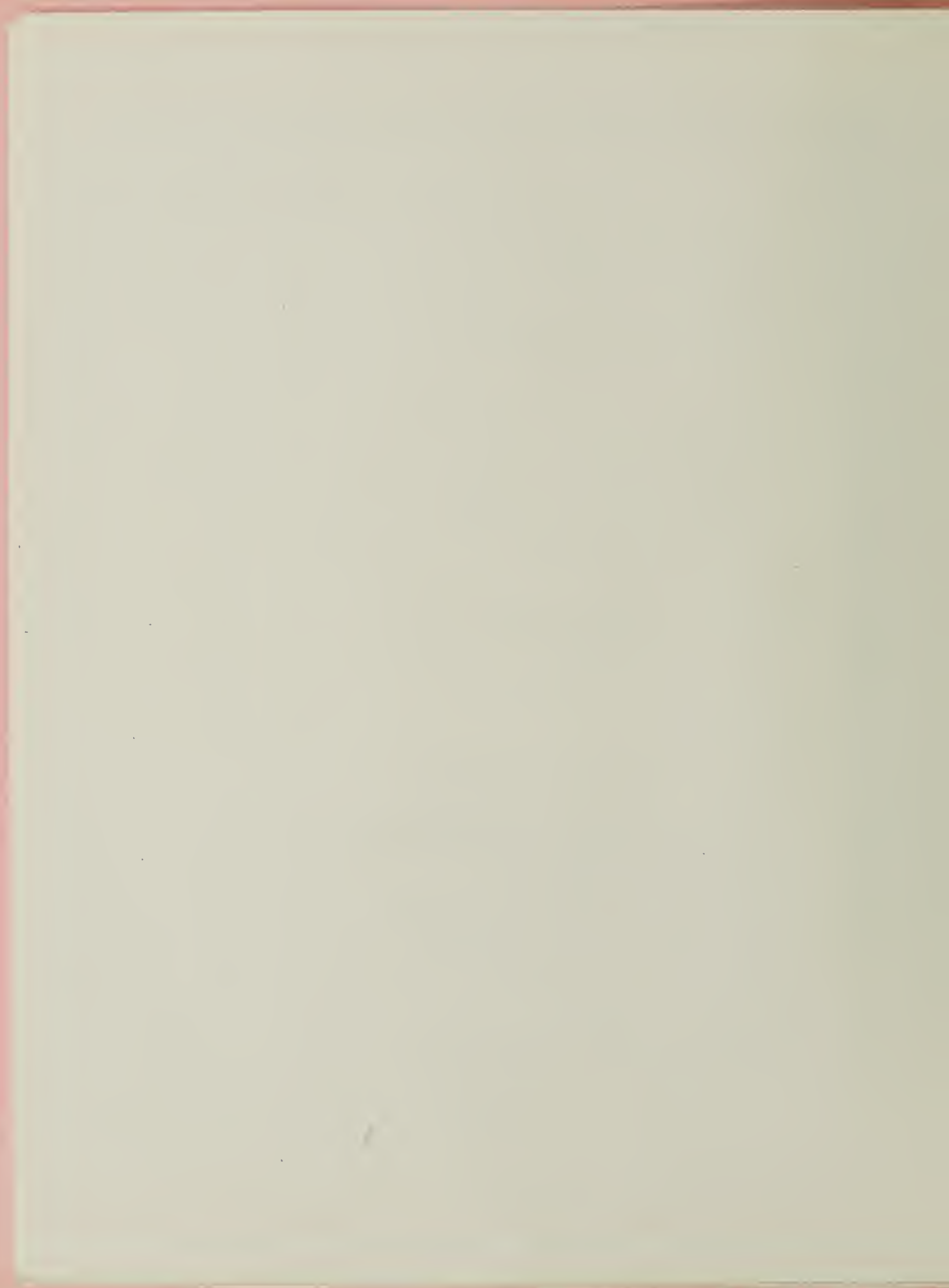
The following figures, from the Vital Statistics of the whole Country and extracted from the Registrar General's Report, are appended for comparison with the corresponding indices for Woodhall Spa Urban District to be found in the Vital Statistics data of this report.

Live births per thousand population	15.8
Total births per thousand population	16.17
Deaths per thousand population	11.6
Maternal Mortality per thousand total births	0.86



Causes of Death as shown in the Registrar General's Short List

Short List No.	Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3	-	3
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	-	4	4
18.	Coronary disease, angina	3	2	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
20.	Other heart disease	3	9	12
21.	Other circulatory disease	-	-	-
22.	Influenza	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	-	-	-
24.	Bronchitis	1	-	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	3	4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
34.	All other accidents	-	-	-
35.	Suicide	-	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
TOTALS		14	19	33



Tuberculosis Statistics

During 1950 there was only 1 case of Tuberculosis notified in the district, a 22 year old female, suffering from Respiratory Tuberculosis, who was admitted via Lincoln County Hospital to Branston Hall Sanatorium.

In the preceding five year period, 1945 - 49, there have been 8 notifications of Respiratory Tuberculosis and 6 of Non-Respiratory type.

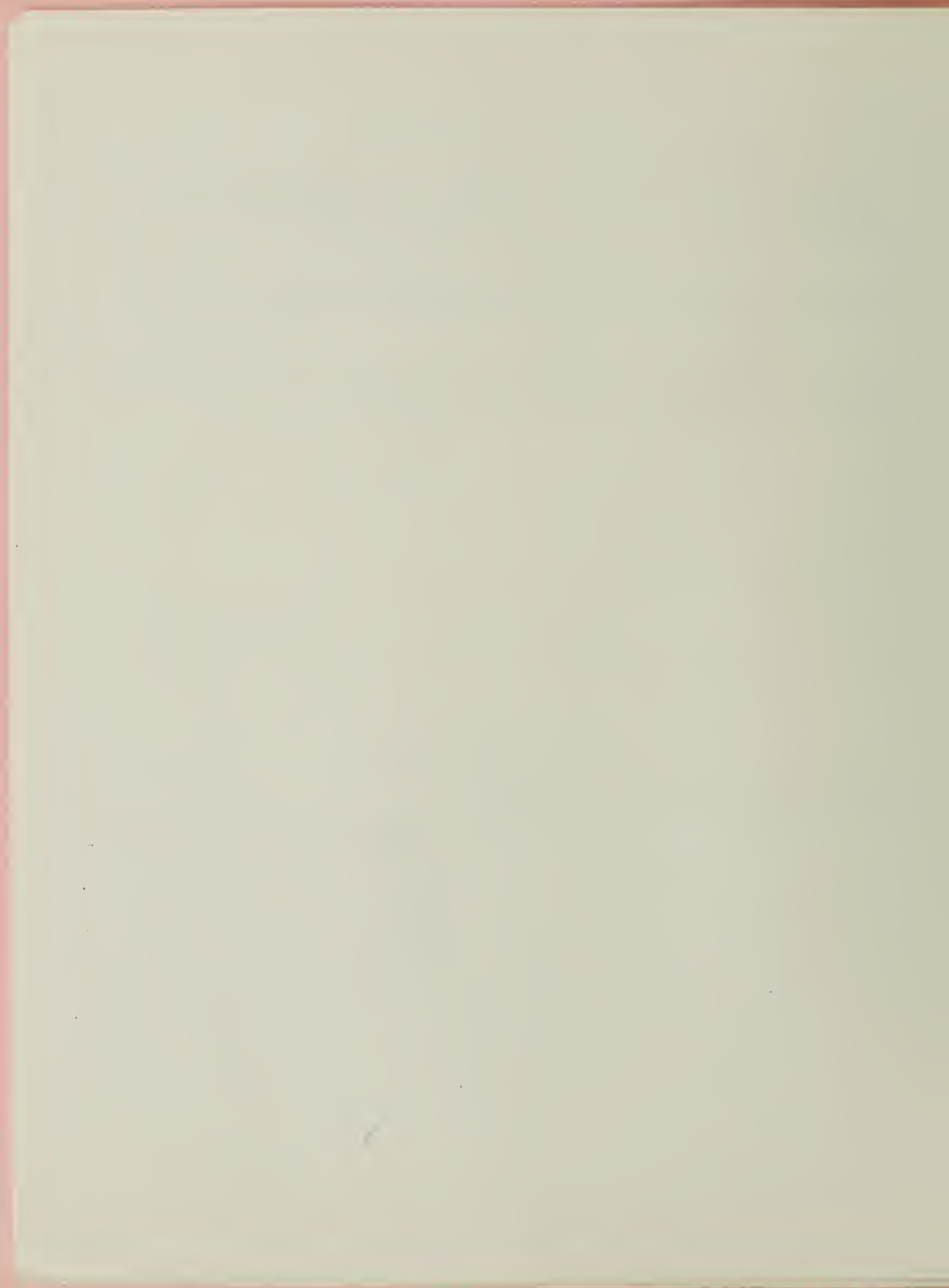
The following Table shows the state of the District Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1950, during which period there were no deaths from this condition.

	Cases		
	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory	4	6	10
Non-Respiratory	5	3	8
Totals	9	9	18

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious Disease Notifications

Disease	Cases	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Measles	50	-	-
Pneumonia	22	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	56	-	-
All others	-	-	-



The most striking difference between 1950 and 1949 infectious disease notifications is the great increase in the number of cases of Primary Pneumonia, which rose from 3 cases in 1949 to 22 in 1950. All these cases were not, however, of the pneumococcal lobar-pneumonia type - what is generally thought of as "pneumonia" - but many were the result of a Virus infection which produces a true primary, but a typical pneumonia which, until quite recently was not recognised as a clinical entity at all. It is extremely doubtful if, before the last war, a series of 22 pneumonia cases would have resulted in not a single death, and this result, without recourse to hospital treatment, is a matter for great satisfaction and reflects much credit on the general practitioners concerned.

The notification of 56 cases of whooping cough, compared with but 5 in the preceding year need occasion no surprise as this disease tends to bi-ennial epidemicity, a feature further borne out by the notification of 90 cases in the year 1948.

Measles cases fell from 78 cases in the preceding year to 50 in the year under review and scarlet fever remained constant with 2 cases in each year.

The absence from the notification tables of any cases of Diphtheria, Acute-Poliomyelitis and Food Poisoning is noted with pleasure.

Protective Immunisations

The following figures have been supplied by the County Health Department, with respect to Woodhall Spa Urban District.

Diphtheria Inoculations, 1950

No. of initial immunisations under 5 years	26
No. of initial immunisations 5 - 14 years	4
No. of Booster inoculations	35

Smallpox Vaccinations, 1950

No. of Primary Vaccinations	16
No. of re-vaccinations	12



It cannot be too greatly stressed that the great decline in the incidence of diphtheria throughout the Country as a whole, and its total absence from Woodhall Spa, in post war years is not an excuse for failing to have children given the necessary protective inoculations, but is rather the best reason of all for the maintenance of a high level of immunisation among the young population.

The same is true with regard to vaccination. Recent years have seen several small pox "scares" in the Country. These incidents need not be "scares" in a completely vaccinated community. There is no place for apathy nor for what is worse, so called conscientious objection masquerading behind a mask of pseudo-science.

National Assistant Act, 1948. Section 47.

No cases believed to fall within the provisions of the above came under the notice of your Medical Officer during the year.

HEALTH SERVICES - GENERAL PROVISION

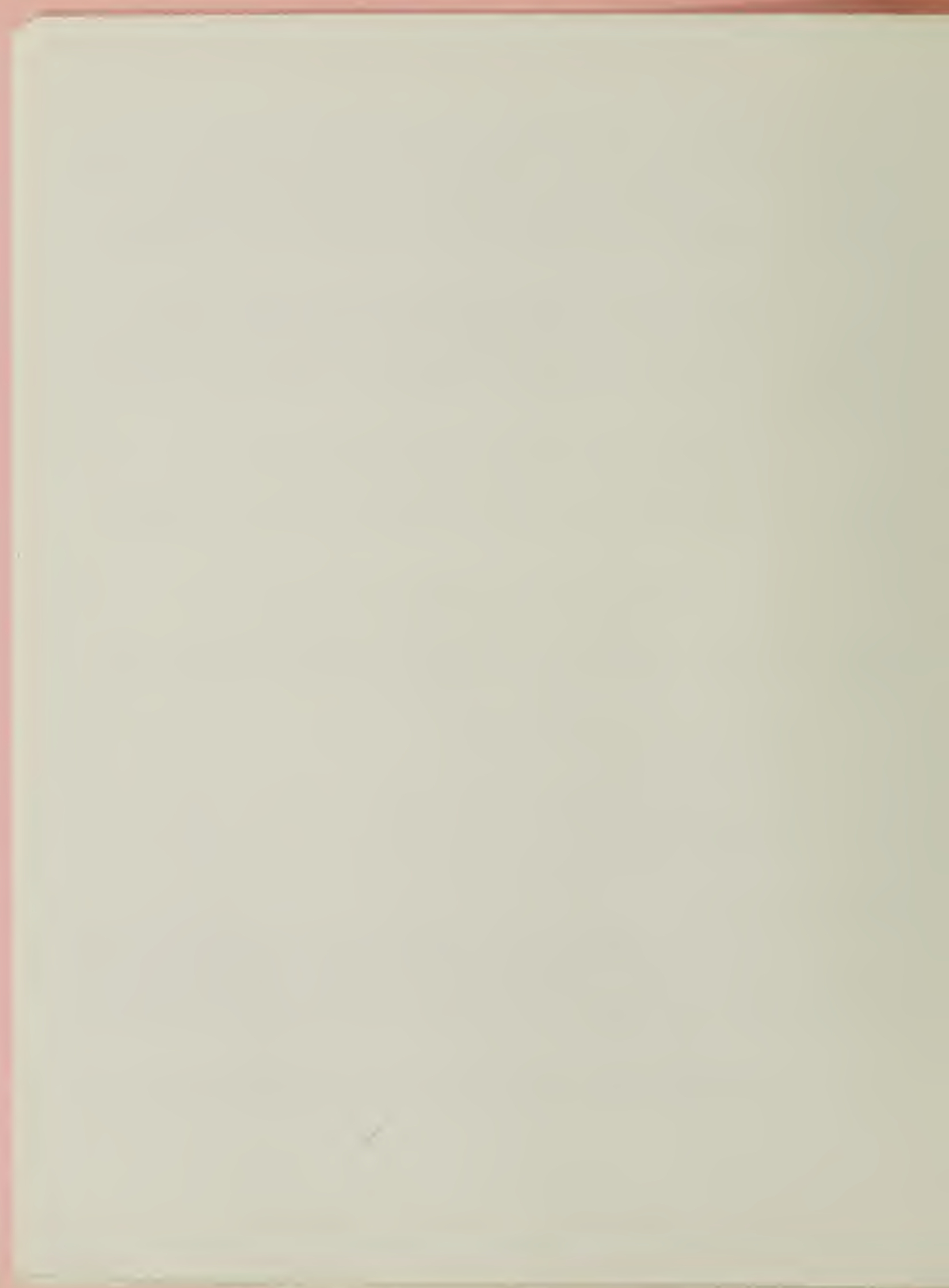
Since the inception of the National Health Service Act, 1946, there have been no changes in the following services which operated satisfactorily again during 1950.

General Practitioner Service
Hospital Service
Maternity Service
Home Nursing Service
Health Visitor Service
Ambulance Service
Laboratory Service

Home Help Service

It is regrettable again to have to state that, despite the efforts of Lindsey County Council, it has been impossible to find a single local recruit to this service, so necessary in times of domestic upset resulting from illness in the house - particularly the illness of the mother.

The nearest Home Help lives at Horncastle and it is extremely doubtful if her services would ever be available outside that area.



Treatment Centres & Clinics

Facilities as detailed in previous Annual Reports continued to be available at the County Council's Clinic in Horncastle and at the Methodist Church Schoolroom, Coningsby but it is surprising that Woodhall Spa makes but little use of these services, although difficulties of transport may well explain this.

Tuberculosis Clinic & Dispensary

It will be recalled that in October 1949 the Central Lincolnshire Chest Unit took over this Clinic in Horncastle, but continued to hold Clinics as before. In April, 1950, however, the Chest Clinic, as such, closed down thereby depriving Woodhall Spa of its nearest facility in this field. Because of the absence of X-Ray equipment it cannot be pretended that arrangements at Horncastle were ideal, but it is nevertheless an incontrovertible fact that it is not every chest case which requires an X-Ray on the occasion of each supervisory examination. (It is strange to note that this fact is now becoming generally recognised by the National Health Service when X-Ray film is becoming scarce!) It is to be hoped that sometime in the future the Central Lincolnshire Chest Unit will see its way to restore the facilities of which the district has been deprived.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

Water Supply

Following the decision of the Council, taken in the latter part of 1949, the work of scraping and chemically cleansing large sections of the water main system of the town was begun early in 1950 and in Tor-O'-Moor Road, instead of cleansing the existing three inch main it was found to be a better proposition to replace this cast iron main with one of four inch cement asbestos. After the work of cleansing had been completed much more satisfactory bacteriological reports were received on samples submitted for examination.

The following summarises the results of bacteriological examination of samples taken during the year.

Bacteriological Class	Numbers
I	46
II	4
III	4
IV	1
Total samples submitted	<hr/> 55

Sewage Disposal

The Council's Sewage Disposal plant at Green Lane continued to produce a satisfactory effluent during the year, but it is apparent that in the very near future active steps will have to be taken to prevent possible break-downs at these works. New sprinkler arms have already been provided for, but attention must be directed to the condition of the filter-beds, the retaining walls of which are riddled with cracks of slowly but surely increasing width, and it must be remembered that the final effective treatment of the effluent depends entirely on the functioning of these beds.

Public Cleansing and Refuse Collection

A regular weekly was more consistently maintained during 1950 than in immediately previous years and no complaints of non-removal were received by the Health Department.

Swimming Pool, Jubilee Park

Advised by the Water Division of Imperial Chemical Industries, the system of "Break Point Chlorination" was instituted at the opening of the season at the open air Swimming Pool. This proved eminently satisfactory, and reports on eleven samples of the pool water which were bacteriologically examined during the bathing season, testified to the efficiency of the new method.

REPORT OF SANITARY WORK DURING THE YEAR

The following are the details of the work of the Council's Sanitary Inspector during 1950, as reported by him to the Health Department of the County Council.

Total No. of New Houses erected during the year

(I)	By the Local Authority	Nil
(II)	By other Local Authorities	Nil
(III)	By other bodies or persons	5

I Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year

(I)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	14
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(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 19

(2) (a) No. of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 Nil

(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose Nil

(3) No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation Nil

(4) No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 8

II Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices

No. of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 4

III Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936 Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11, 12 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 Nil

IV Housing Act, 1936. - Part IV. - Overcrowding

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 2
 Number of families dwelling therein 2
 Number of persons dwelling therein 24

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil



- (c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil
 Number of persons concerned in such cases Nil
- (d) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved Nil

V Movable Dwellings, tents, vans, etc.

No. of site licences	2
No. of individual licences	2
No. inspected during year	6
No. of contraventions remedied	Nil

VI Bakehouses

No. in district	2
No. of inspections	24
No. of contraventions	Nil
Defects remedied	Nil

VII Control of Milk Supplies

No. of distributors on register	4
No. of producer/retailers	2
No. of dairies on register	2
No. of inspections of dairies	2
Contraventions remedied	Nil
No. of milk samples taken: Satisfactory	Nil
Unsatisfactory	Nil

VIII Ice Cream

No. of manufacturers	2
No. of premises registered for sale	6
No. of contraventions	Nil
No. of samples taken: Satisfactory	4
Unsatisfactory	1

IX Slaughterhouses

No. on register	Nil
No. of inspections	-
Contraventions of by-laws	-
Defects remedied	-



X Offensive Trades

No. of premises in district	Nil
No. of inspections	Nil
Contraventions of by-laws	Nil
Contraventions remedied	Nil

XI Shops Act, 1950

Number of shops inspected	64
Contraventions remedied	Nil

XII Water Supply

Wells	(New sunk	Nil
	(Closed as polluted	Nil
	(Area supplied	All but 4
	(properties
Public Supply	(Percentage of houses internal supply	-
	(Communal supply	-
Number of samples obtained for analysis		45
	(a) from wells	1
	(b) from public supply	44
Any insufficiency and where		-

XIII Drainage and Sewerage

Closets

No. of houses with privy vaults in district	4
No. of houses with pail closets in district	17
No. of pail closets repaired	Nil
No. of water closets substituted for dry receptacles	1
No. of houses with water closets in district	526
No. of water closets repaired	Nil

XIV Drains

Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc.	8
Drains unstopped, repaired, etc.	1
Waste, pipes, disconnected, repaired, etc.	Nil
Existing soil pipes, etc., renewed or repaired	Nil

XV	<u>Sewers</u>	New lengths of sewer laid	Nil
XVI	<u>Tanks, Filter beds, etc</u>	Alterations to sewage disposal works	Nil
		Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works or complaints as to smells	Nil
XVII	<u>Cesspools</u>	Cesspools emptied, cleansed, etc	Nil
		Cesspools abolished	Nil
XVIII	<u>Disinfection, etc.</u>	Rooms disinfected	1
		(a) ordinary infectious disease	1
		(b) tuberculosis	Nil
		Rooms stripped and cleansed	Nil
		No. of premises disinfested	Nil
XIX	<u>House Refuse</u>	No. of houses using dustbins	529
		Is refuse removed by householders or by public scavenger?	Public Scavenger
		How frequently is refuse removed from each house?	Every 7 days
		No. of complaints of non-removal	Nil
		Method of final disposal	Controlled Tipping
		Are existing arrangements for refuse removal satisfactory?	Yes
XX	<u>Nuisances</u>	Total Number of nuisances during year :-	
	(1)	Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	4
	(2)	Reported to Council (Statutory notice issued Nil	
		(" " not issued Nil	



